

Volume 2, Issue 2

April—June 2010



Maricopa County Animal Care and Control



Trailin' Tails Newsletter

Year of the Cat



One of the many dogs that has passed through MCACC's doors looking for a forever home— he got one!

Maricopa County is seeing a cat crisis. Thousands of cats are without homes and hundreds more are born every year. Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) saw 14,082 cats come through the doors last year. More than half of those cats arrived during the late spring and early summer months, resulting in an overwhelming number of cats and nowhere to put them. Intake increases a whopping 181% from the slowest to busiest months. With only 25% of the cats getting adopted and about 20% getting rescued, there is too large of a gap.

Cat euthanasia is higher than dog euthanasia. Unlike dogs, a small number of lost cats actually go back to their owners. More than 10% of the dogs that come to the shelter get returned to their owners compared with a mere ½% of the cats. What's more, cats tend to stay longer at the shelter than dogs—9 days vs. 6. While few dogs stay more than a month, a greater number of cats stay over three months.

MCACC has dedicated 2010 as the Year of the Cat in order to change these numbers, in effect, saving more cats lives. MCACC has come up with a solution, but it will take the entire community to solve the problem. Following are ways you can help.

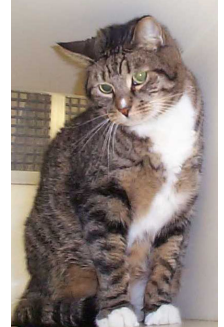
REDUCE SHELTER INTAKE: Get your cat spayed or neutered. MCACC will hold cat-only spay and neuter events in communities around the valley. (In April, the clinic will be in the 85201 zip code. In May, 85345. In June,



85202.) You may also obtain information on low-cost spay/neuter for your cat by calling the Spay Neuter Hotline at (602) 265-7729 or online at

www.spayneuterhotline.org

Participate in Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) with the feral cats in your neighborhood. Through TNR, cats are humanely trapped and sterilized. Feral, therefore unadoptable, cats are placed back into the environment in which they were living. Volunteer caretakers provide food, water, and clean, unobtrusive shelters for the cats. Eventually, through natural attrition, the colony dies out. Any stray or tame, adoptable cats found in the colony are removed and adopted into homes.

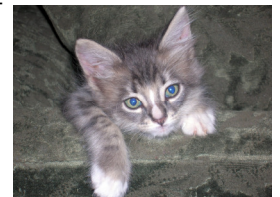


To learn more about TNR, contact :

- Spay Neuter Hotline: (602) 265-SPAY
Website: www.spayneuterhotline.org
Email feralcats@adlaz.org
- Altered Tails: (602) 943-7729
Website at www.AlteredTails.org

INCREASE SHELTER ADOPTION: If you are planning to get a cat, go to a shelter or rescue to adopt one. Share your shelter experience with friends and family and encourage them to adopt from a shelter. MCACC will hold cat adoption specials every month.

RAISE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF CAT ISSUES: Help MCACC educate the community. Pass out flyers in your community; put up posters in meeting places. Invite MCACC to speak to your neighborhood association.



For more information, visit www.maricopa.gov/pets/yotc

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One of the many cats that have come through our doors needing a new home—he got one!

Veterinarian's Corner: Protect Your Dogs from the Sun

The Valley of the Sun is a great place to live, especially if you have dogs that love going places with you. There are many parks and nature trails that are dog friendly (see http://www.bing.com/local/default.aspx?what=dog+parks&where=Phoenix%2c+Arizona&s_cid=ansPhBkYp01&mkt=en-us&ac=false&q=phoenix+dog+parks for a listing). Temperatures are going to rise soon, and with the humidity going down, conditions are going to be conducive to heat related illness.



With our "dry heat", it does not feel as hot as it really is and it's easy to overheat and dehydrate. When hiking with your dog (in the 20+ years I have been out here I have only seen 2 cats besides my own on a walk with their people so this goes for the 3 of us), be sure to bring enough water for both of you. Offer water to your dog whenever you take a rest. This helps rehydrate and cool your dog. Dogs keep cool by panting and that requires a lot of saliva (think water) to create the evaporative cooling effect on the tongue. They also get warm because they are close to the ground. And don't forget their poor little pads; cement and asphalt get very hot. We have seen burned pads on dogs running the streets in the summer. If you cannot stand barefoot on the ground, your dog should not go out for a walk without protection on his paws.

Are you going somewhere you know will have little shade and bringing Scooter? Be sure to provide some sort of shade for your dog. Dark and light skinned dogs, even thick furred ones can sunburn here in Arizona.

Sometimes I see animals that are left in conditions ("for just a few minutes") that are endangering their health. A dog in a car or tied up under a young, over-groomed Palo Verde tree are two examples. The car becomes an oven in moments and many trees do not provide good shade. A dog can get heat stressed quickly when there is not enough air movement to do the evaporative cooling to keep comfortable. And even if there is water available, dogs won't drink it if the water is warm. Arizona law provides for **"a peace officer, animal control enforcement agent or animal control enforcement deputy [to] use reasonable force to open a vehicle to rescue an animal if the animal is left in the vehicle..."** Probably not a lot of fun to come out of the store to find your car broken into, your pet confiscated, and a ticket or warrant for animal cruelty with your name on it.

The other condition that concerns me are the dogs that are left outside their homes with no shade or cool water source. Or they have both, but are tied out so that they cannot reach the shade during a portion of the day. Remember that the sun moves across the sky throughout the day. Make sure your pet has all day shade and water. Both of these are criminal offenses and responsible parties can be jailed and/or fined. Please see: **ARS 13-2910** at <http://www.azleg.state.az.us>

You can have summertime fun with your dog, just do it responsibly - go out early or late with your dog, bring water, and provide opportunities to cool off. Leave your dog at home if you are going to a pet restricted venue or have a responsible family member sit with it out of the car in the shade with water available for both man and beast. For more info see: <http://act-az.org/summer.html>.

Animal First Aid Kit:

First Aid Book

Gauze Pads

Bandages

Cotton Tipped Applicators

Muzzle

Cold Pack

Antiseptic Wipes

Disposable Gloves

Employee Profile: Chief Veterinarian

Dr. Monika Durgin's path to Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) started with a dare. When she was in high school, she was working in the greenhouse at the Oklahoma City Zoo, but she also had an interest in the animals. Her grandparents dared her to apply to Oklahoma State University's School of Veterinary Medicine. She did – and graduated with a degree in 1989.



etc., and when she feels it would improve the animal's quality of life and chances of survival.

One case is particularly memorable for Dr. Durgin. A boxer mix came to the shelter in shock, with a huge chest wound. "Ginger" had been attacked several times by another dog in her household. Some people felt that the only option was to put her

down, but Dr. Durgin felt differently. She was able to give Ginger a second chance at life. Ginger made a full recovery, and was adopted into a loving home.

Does Dr. Durgin miss private practice? Yes and no. She misses building bonds with families and seeing the animals back every year, but she feels that she saves more lives and has a terrific team at MCACC.

In her spare time, she is the leader of her daughter's Girl Scout troop. She is also involved in a parent/teen bible study as well as a women's bible study.

Dr. Durgin is not the only one in her family who has a big and giving heart. Her husband, Michael, has gone to Fiji to do mission work with Homes of Hope, a safe place for girls leaving the sex trade (girls who did not get there by choice, but were sold into it by their parents).

In addition, since starting at MCACC, Dr. Durgin and her family have adopted from the shelter a husky/border collie/Samoyed mix and a cat, as well as taken in a cat from the street who had severe upper respiratory disease.



One of the many dogs MCACC has taken in needing a forever home.

From there, she applied for a job opening with an animal hospital, and came to Phoenix for the interview over Easter weekend, when the orange trees were blooming. She fell in love with the area and accepted the job.

Soon after, Dr. Durgin started her own practice. Eight years later she merged with another practice. When that later became a corporate practice, she decided to move on.

In the summer of 2007, Dr. Durgin interviewed with MCACC "just for practice" before starting her job search in earnest. She had so much fun at the interview, and could tell it would be a great place to work, so she accepted a position. Six months later, she became Chief Veterinarian, and now works more than 40 hours a week at both MCACC shelters.

Dr. Durgin's days are full, mostly doing spay and neuter surgeries. There are also ill animals for whom she and her staff provide ongoing care and monitoring.

Dr. Durgin occasionally does other kinds of surgeries if she has the required medicines, equipment,

Spay and neuter your pets

Get your dogs and cats spayed or neutered! MCACC takes in over 55,000 animals a year, many of them unwanted kittens and puppies. These innocent animals have little chance of survival in our shelters—they need too much care. Please help us stop unnecessary euthanasia—spay and neuter your pets! SNAP, MCACC's Spay and Neuter Assistance Program, offers a free spay or neuter surgery for your cat or dog. Please visit us on the web at www.pets.maricopa.gov for more information.



Call or email us and we'll bring the Mobile Pet Adoptions Bus to your business or neighborhood!

602-506-8995

llong@mail.maricopa.gov

Be sure to check out our web site every month to see where our Mobile Pet Adoptions Bus will be and what else is happening.
<http://www.maricopa.gov/Pets/News/Calendar.aspx>



MCACC took in over 55,000 dogs and cats last year. Please give one a good home!

East Valley Woman Comforts Dogs at Shelter

Following is a story by a woman who set her mind on making a difference: "My name is Jessica and I made it my goal to provide elevated beds for the dogs at the East Valley shelter. While the shelter is safe for the animals, it can be a very scary and stressful place. Dogs spend their days in small runs with nothing to comfort them. The concrete can be painful, cold and uncomfortable, even with a blanket.



and can be disinfected while cleaning the kennel. Thanks to Sprinkler World and Southwestern Supply Company, I made 125 beds. It still wasn't enough. There are 354 kennels at the shelter.

Next, with the help of the local media, I sent out a plea to the community,

asking them to donate Kuranda beds directly to the shelter. (Kuranda beds provide a soft, dry place off the floor to relax, which every dog deserves. The calming effect reduces stress levels, promoting adoption.) The response was overwhelming. The community stepped up and donated more than enough beds to be put in every kennel – \$30,000 worth! My head is still spinning! I am so grateful to the community's help!"

Jessica, we here at MCACC, and every dog that comes through the shelter is thankful to you. You have made their days a little more comfortable!

I started my mission by making small "doggie pads" to place on the floor in the dog runs. It broke my heart to be in the shelter, but it was worth it to see the look on the dogs face as they curled up on something soft and warm! When I realized the need to wash all the bedding regularly, I knew it wouldn't be enough.

I then started making elevated beds out of PVC and heavy-duty sunshade screen. They are waterproof

A Community Wide Donation

Following is a letter from the owner of Doggie Domain, Ninette Hupp, who held a donation drive for the animals of MCACC over the holidays: "Just before Thanksgiving, I was contacted by Joan Cardell, a 2nd grade teacher at Kiva Elementary School in Paradise Valley who had heard about our holiday food drive. She said that she would propose the animal food drive to her 2nd grade class, possibly creating a school-wide effort. I was very touched by her call and could tell that she was eager to help. Today I went to pick up the Kiva Elementary donations, honestly imagining that it would be a few bags. I greatly underestimated the efforts of this school's generous staff, students and their families. They had 117 bags of dry food, 224 cans of wet food, 15 containers of treats, along with some toys and feeding bowls. It filled my entire car."

Many thanks to Kiva Elementary on behalf of the animals housed at MCACC. And thank you, Ninette, who collected more than \$2,300 worth of food and supplies.

Working Out to Help the Animals

Ultimate Body Boot Camp Founder, Richelle Melde is determined to raise money to help MCACC buy a commercial grade washing machine. "Volunteers must go off site and spend time and their money at laundry mats to wash all the towels and blankets. " Richelle has asked some of the people who train with her to get involved. They kicked off the fundraising with a morning of working out. They raised \$300. If you are interested in helping Richelle raise money, contact her at richelle@ultimatebodybootcamp.com



Rabies Clinic

Specials: \$20

West and East Shelters

Sunday 11 - 5:30 p.m.

Tues - Thurs 9 - 11 a.m.

Animal Control Officer Helps to Save a Home

This past January, Animal Control Officer Barnes responded to a call about loose dogs in Wittman. While on the call, she noticed a house on fire and contacted the local Fire Department. They responded and put out the fire minimizing damage to the home.



I can't thank her enough".

Because of Officer Barnes quick actions, what could of been a tragic event for the homeowner was averted. Officer Barnes was recognized for providing outstanding public service and bringing credit to

The homeowner told MCACC "I am so grateful to Officer Barnes. She helped save my home.

herself, the division, and MCACC.

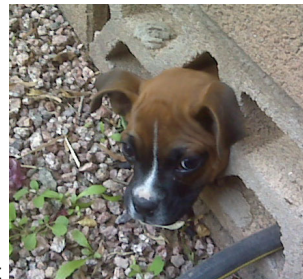
If you'd like to receive this newsletter electronically, please visit us at : www.pets.maricopa.gov

Teamwork Rescues Puppy Trapped in Wall

MCACC Animal Control Officer Samantha VonBrandt responded to a call of a small boxer puppy stuck in a wall in Gilbert. When she arrived she met the concerned neighbor who pointed out the puppy and stated the he had been in the wall for a few hours. Officer VonBrandt tried to make contact with the homeowners and was unable to do so.



As she approached the wall, she saw the puppy's head was coming out a drainage hole at the bottom of the wall. Officer VonBrandt attempted to remove the dog, but the hole wasn't big enough for his body. MCACC Dispatch called Gilbert Fire to assist. They came out, chiseled the brick away, and removed the puppy without any harm to him. The grateful puppy kissed everyone and was checked for injuries. The hole was blocked so the small dog could not get trapped in the future.



MCACC took in over 12,000 cats last year. Please give one a good home!

MCACC Needs Volunteers

There are many homeless animals in Maricopa County. With the approach of summer, they need our help even more. Have you ever wondered how you can be of aid? Volunteer at Maricopa County Animal Care and Control! This is a great way to help our furry friends. There are many different ways to give back: become an adoption counselor and help the dogs and cats find their forever homes; take pictures of them for our website; socialize dogs and cats by walking and playing with them.

Besides volunteering at the shelter, you can help out at our mobile adoption events at various locations throughout the valley. You can become a foster parent and provide a temporary home for



an animal (or two) until they are ready to go up for adoption. If you are good with a sewing machine, you can cut down old comforters and sew them to make individual doggie and kitty beds.

Becoming a volunteer at MCACC is also a great place to meet people with the same love of animals. Everyone is working together to end the euthanasia of adoptable and treatable dogs and cats. For additional information about MCACC or the volunteer program please visit our website at www.pets.maricopa.gov. You can submit an online volunteer application and see a list of upcoming orientation dates. Help us save lives!

GoodSearch
powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

Search the web with www.goodsearch.com and money from Yahoo advertisers will go to FACC's – Friends of Animal Care & Control without you spending a dime!



One of the lucky cats to find a new home at MCACC this year.

Teens Ask for Donations for Their 16th Birthday

Jenna and Kristen had an important birthday coming up—their 16th. Unlike many teens, the twins decided they wanted to do something for the community on their birthday. Instead of asking for presents from their friends, the girls asked their friends to bring donations of food and supplies for the dogs and cats at Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

Jenna told MCACC, "My whole family is full of animal lovers, and so we would love to give back to the homeless pets located at your shelter." A special thanks to Jenna, Kristin and all their friends!



Preventing Rabies

Rabies is an infectious viral disease that affects the nervous system of humans and other mammals. It is almost always fatal once symptoms appear. Individuals exposed to a rabid animal, usually through a bite or scratch, must receive treatment (anti-rabies serum and vaccine) soon after contact to prevent rabies infection.

The most important global source of rabies in humans is from uncontrolled rabies in dogs. That can be eliminated through ensuring adequate animal vaccination and control, educating those at risk, and enhancing access of those bitten to appropriate medical care.

In Arizona, rabies most commonly occurs in bats, skunks, and foxes, but any mammal can contract the disease. Rabid animals may appear unstable or show unusual behavior. They may become aggressive and attempt to bite people, pets and livestock. Wild animals exhibiting unusual behavior, such as no fear of people; nocturnal animals out during the day; and bats found on the ground should be reported to local animal control officials or the health department.

Rabies prevention starts with the animal owner. Protect yourself, your pet and your community by taking your pets to be vaccinated. Be safe when you are enjoying the great outdoors. Whether you are hiking, camping, or biking, avoid stray animals and wildlife. This means your pets too. Keep them inside a fenced backyard. When you do take your dogs out, keep them on a leash. Dogs get curious and could run off. You don't know what is out where you can't see.

If you are bitten, wash bite wounds with soap and water and seek medical attention immediately. If your pet is bitten, consult your veterinarian immediately. Prompt and appropriate treatment after being bitten and before the disease develops can stop rabies infection and/or prevent the disease in humans and animals.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PETS:

- Get your pets vaccinated
- Keep your dog on a leash
- Keep your cats and ferrets inside
- Avoid contact with wildlife

THE LAW:

Maricopa County Animal Care and Control enforces a strict law when it comes to rabies prevention. All dogs over the age of three months **must** have an updated rabies vaccination and a Maricopa County dog license.

A.R.S. 11-1008 & 11-1010

Rabies vaccinations are \$34 at either of MCACC's Animal Care Centers. They are \$20 all day on Sundays and Tuesday through Thursday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

For more information, visit our web site at www.pets.maricopa.gov or call Arizona Department of Health Services: (602) 542-1000



Help us control the pet overpopulation problem. Get your pet spayed or neutered!

Ways to Help the Animals

While MCACC was originally founded for the purpose of catching and killing stray animals to prevent the spread of rabies and other diseases, the population growth in Maricopa County has resulted in an ever increasing number of healthy and treatable dogs and cats looking to MCACC to find them homes. As a "special revenue fund" within Maricopa County, MCACC is responsible for generating funds for both its mandated and non-mandated services.

By becoming a donor of your dollars, your time, or by holding a donation drive, you can help ensure that MCACC can provide the care and services that will ultimately make it possible to reach the goal of eliminating the euthanasia of healthy and treatable pets by 2012.

Please send me information about the following

◇ How to Volunteer

◇ How to Donate

◇ Information on: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

____ Yes, I would like to receive your email newsletter!

Mail to: MCACC Community Relations

2500 S. 27th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009

Injured Dog's Spirit is Strong

At the end of December, a small, shaking Chihuahua arrived at Maricopa County Animal Care and Control. He was immediately brought to the clinic as he had a large laceration on his neck. Upon further inspection, clinic staff noticed a shoe lace around his neck. The shoe lace was removed and left a deep wound, exposing tendons.

The little dog was put under anesthesia in order to clean and clip the area. Clinic staff started him on a treatment of creams and antibiotics to help the wound heal and stop infection.

Shoestring, as the staff affectionately came to call him, amazed everyone with his sweet personality. A trau-

matized dog can strike out in fear. But Shoestring wanted nothing more than to snuggle with anyone who came to visit him. He was full of energy and determined to kiss everyone who paid him the slightest bit of attention.

Shoestring quickly became a staff favorite. When he was healed enough to be adopted, he was taken on television. Following his stint on TV, Shoestring went back to the shelter. After that, he didn't have to wait long to be adopted. Somebody fell in love with him on sight!

Renamed Blaze, the sweet boy is now living the life of luxury and giving his new family lots of love.



Tune in and catch our animals on TV and the radio!

- *Every Saturday on Channel 12 at 9:35 a.m.*
- *Every 1st and 3rd Monday on Sonoran Living in Channel 15*
- *Every other Thursday on Channel 12 at 1:35 p.m.*
- *Every last Tuesday of the month on KOOL radio 94.5 FM*
- *You can also find them online at ktar.com*



Save a life and become forever loved— come find your new furry friend at one of our shelters.



Visit one our Animal Care Centers!

West Valley Care Center
2500 S. 27th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85009

East Valley Care Center
2630 W. 8th St.
Mesa, AZ 85201

Phone: 602-506-PETS (7387)

E-mail: ahollis@mail.maricopa.gov

We're on the web!

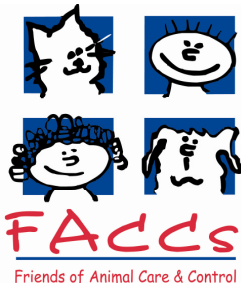
www.pets.maricopa.gov

MCACC's new approach to delivering animal care and control services reflects the delicate balance that exists between animal welfare and animal control. We strive to be proactive and offer programs to prevent problems before they occur. It is our vision to reduce the dangers and nuisances caused by irresponsible pet ownership and to protect pets from abuse, neglect and homelessness.

Our mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of people and pets in Maricopa County.

MCACC offers a multitude of services to assist you and your pets.

- Adoption of cats and dogs
- Spay/Neuter programs
- Licensing
- Rabies vaccinations
- Lost and found shelter care
- Stray dog pick up
- Microchips
- Opportunities to volunteer and become foster care givers



Friends of Animal Care and Control

Our mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the special programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

P.O. Box 80739
Phoenix, AZ 85060

602-626-5073

Visit us at: www.azfaccs.org

Friends of Animal Care and Control Thrift Store

The FACCs thrift shop sells a wide variety of gently used items. Proceeds from the sales fund MCACC's valuable programs.



FACCs Thrift Shop

12625 N. Cave Creek Road (North of Thunderbird)
Phoenix, AZ 85022
602-923-6914

Store hours: Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm
Tuesday and Thursday open until 6:00 pm

Do you love animals? Do you have some items that you'd like to donate to charity? Please donate them to the FACCs thrift shop! The store is currently accepting the following gently used items:

- Clothing, purses, jewelry and shoes
- Dishes, glassware, utensils
- Furniture - indoor and outdoor
- Children's clothing and toys (no furniture or car seats please)
- Books
- Tools
- Household items (lamps, linens, bedspreads)
- Kitchen and office appliances
- Computers, printers, software
- Artwork
- Cell phones, PDA's

For a large item (or large amount), call us to arrange a free pick up at (602) 996-7399.

FACC's mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the programs of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control.

